

Docket No. 740618-50
Serial No. 09/768,316

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. By this amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended and claims 3-6 are added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,325,131 to Penney (hereinafter "Penney"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a video switcher comprising a plurality of inputs and an aspect ratio converter, the plurality of inputs are capable of receiving a plurality of signals of mixed aspect ratios, the switcher adapted to combine one or more of the plurality of signals to form a composite video signal. Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of inputs and a switcher which receives a converted and a native signal format and combines the signals into a composite effect.

In contrast, Penney is directed toward an HDTV upconverter apparatus and an HDTV downconverter apparatus as discrete, non-integrated components of the switcher. These are combined with the switcher through external auxiliary switching apparatus.

Specifically, Penney allows the switching between converted and non-converted signal sources. This switching occurs subsequent to all effects processing in the switcher (See Fig. 1, element 10.)

Applicants respectfully submit that Penney at least fails to teach, suggest or disclose the integration of video conversion into the switcher. In contrast, Penney only discloses that a control signal is provided by the switcher to actuate external auxiliary switching. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Penney teaches away from the present invention in that Penney states that HDTV signals cannot be combined into any composite effect with non-HDTV signals, they are simply passed directly to the system output (see the Figure in Penney.)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Penney at least fails to teach, suggest or disclose combining mixed formats of signals into a composite effect. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Penney fails to teach, suggest or disclose allowing aspect-ratio conversion to be controlled by the switcher. At least

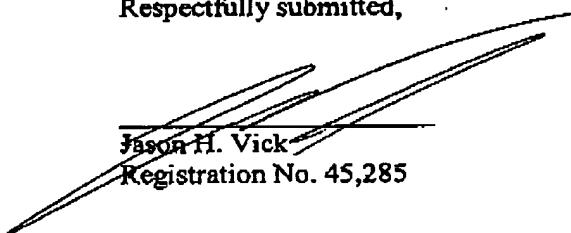
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based on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Penney fails to teach, suggest or disclose each and every feature of the claims. Accordingly, Penney fails to anticipate claims 1 and 2. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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